

ISSUE 6 · NOVEMBER 27, 2020

INDIA IN TORONTO

Newsletter of the Consulate General of India, Toronto

Diwali Celebrations

Diwali, the festival of lights was celebrated this year innovatively and virtually by various diaspora organizations. Niagara falls stood resplendent, illuminated for Diwali celebrations organized in association with Indo-Canada Arts Council.



Niagara Falls Illuminated for Diwali



Diwali Celebrations

Prime Minister Trudeau Celebrates Diwali

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau participated in a virtual celebration of the annual Diwali celebrations, lighting up a ceremonial lamp from his office in Ottawa. Ministers and MP's also attended the virtual celebration. The Prime Minister also sent virtual greetings to the community for Diwali and Bandi Chhor Diwas. Watch [here](#).



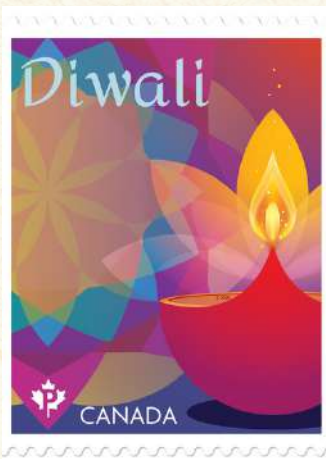
Wishes by Premier Doug Ford

The Hon'ble Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford in his video message wishes the community on occasion of Diwali and Bandi Chhor Diwas. The video also features messages from Members of Provincial Parliament. Click [here](#) to see full message.

Various elected representatives and political leaders also took to Social Media to deliver their Diwali greetings for the community.



Commemorative Stamp by Canada Post



Canada Post issued a new commemorative stamp to mark Diwali. The stamp features a diya and a vibrant geometric background evocative of a traditional Rangoli.

Diwali Celebrations with Community Organisations

Haryanvi Association of North America (HANA)

Consul General Apoorva Srivastava attended virtual Diwali celebrations of HANA on November 13. The celebrations included a discourse by Guru Sri Tejaswi Das talking about the essence of Diwali.

Telugu Alliances of Canada (TACA)

Consul General also attended virtual Diwali celebrations by TACA on November 15 where she also announced the results of the मातृbhasha Telugu competitions.

अखिल विश्व हिंदी समिति

दीपावली और गोवर्धन पूजा के अवसर पर अखिल विश्व हिंदी समिति के 'ई-विश्व कवि सम्मेलन' का उद्घाटन कोंसुलाधीश श्रीमती अपूर्वा श्रीवास्तव ने किया।

110 flights of Vande Bharat Mission

110 special flights as on 26 November, 2020 under Vande Bharat Mission from Toronto to different destinations in India have facilitated the return of more than 20,500 Indians and Indian origin foreigners.

Click [here](#) for Flight Schedule.



Consulate आपके द्वार Life Certificate

In an effort to improve accessibility during the pandemic, Consular camps with safety protocols have been organized to issue Life Certificates to seniors and pensioners in various locations across the city including Winnipeg, Kitchener, Cambridge etc. 5000 Life Certificates have been issued.

No fee is charged by the Consulate for issuing Life Certificates. Applicants are required to register to avail the service. For Life Certificate appointments email may be sent to reception.toronto@mea.gov.in.



Bharat ko Janiye Quiz - Participate and win a trip to India

Bharat Ko Janiye" online quiz 2020-21, is being organized by the Government of India for PIOs, NRIs & foreign nationals in the age group of 18-35 years. Registration can be done on www.bharatkojaniye.in.

- The portal has (a) guidelines for participation;
- (b) Study material;
 - (c) Mock Quiz; and,
 - (d) Timeline of the Quiz

Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz
Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India
(Overseas Indian Affairs - S Division)

Participate and get chance to visit India

BHARAT KO JANIYE QUIZ 2020-21
(Know India Quiz Contest 2020-21)

Eligibility:
Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz is open for 3 categories of participants - PIO, NRI & Foreigners between 18 to 35 years.

Registration started from: 30th September 2020

For registration & participation, please visit: www.bharatkojaniye.in

Brief Guidelines:
There will be four rounds of quiz in online mode.

1st round (11 to 30 November 2020) - Welcome round open to everyone. Winners from each country will get Gold, Silver and Bronze medals.

2nd round (7 to 13 December 2020) - Winners of 1st round participate.

3rd round (14 to 20 December 2020) - Top 10 contenders of second round participate- total 30 participants.

4th & Final round (21 to 27 December 2020) - Top 7 contenders of 3rd round will participate- total 21 participants.

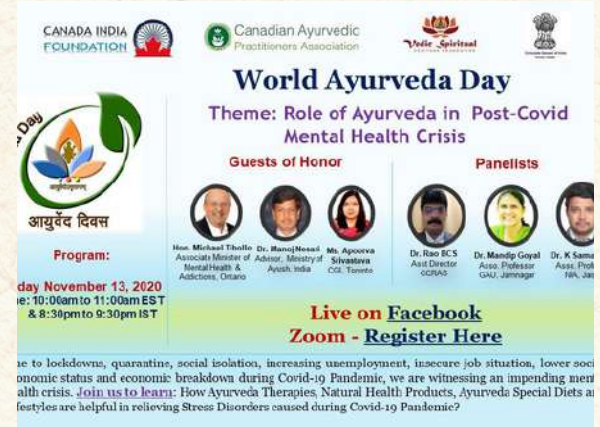
Final winners - 5 in each category (3 medal winners and 2 consolation prizes). All 15 winners will be invited for Bharat Darshan (India Tour).

#BharatKoJaniye @OIA, MEA @OverseasIndianAffairs

Ayurveda Day

On occasion of the 5th World Ayurveda Day on November 13, Canada India Foundation in association with the Consulate, Canadian Ayurvedic Practitioners Association and Vedic Spiritual Heritage Foundation celebrated Ayurveda Day with a panel discussion on Role of Ayurveda in Post-Covid Mental health crisis. Consul General Apoorva Srivastava, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Hon'ble Michael Tibollo, Advisor of Ministry of Ayush Dr. Manoj Nesari, also participated.

The Centre of Ayurveda & Indian Systems of Healing (CAISH) also celebrated Ayurveda Day with a pledge taking ceremony on the 13th of November.



CANADA INDIA FOUNDATION **Canadian Ayurvedic Practitioners Association** **Vedic Spiritual Heritage Foundation**

World Ayurveda Day

Theme: Role of Ayurveda in Post-Covid Mental Health Crisis

Guests of Honor **Panelists**

Program:
day November 13, 2020
10:06am to 11:00am EST
& 8:30pm to 9:30pm IST

Live on Facebook
Zoom - Register Here

Due to lockdowns, quarantine, social isolation, increasing unemployment, insecure job situation, lower socio-economic status and economic breakdown during Covid-19 Pandemic, we are witnessing an impending mental health crisis. **Join us to learn:** How Ayurveda Therapies, Natural Health Products, Ayurveda Special Diets and lifestyles are helpful in relieving Stress Disorders caused during Covid-19 Pandemic?



ഒരു മുത്തശ്ശിക്കഥ

കഥ പറയാം മലയാളത്തിൽ, നേടാം സമ്മാനങ്ങൾ...

Tell Stories in Malayalam & Win Fabulous Prizes

മാതൃbhasha Malayalam Competitions

Registrations for Malayalam മാതൃbhasha story telling competition conducted in association with @MKAKindness is now open. Click [here](#) to register and submit your entries by December 05, 2020.



Constitution Day at the Consulate

The 71st Constitution Day of India was marked with a reading of the Preamble of the Constitution of India in the Consulate premises led by Consul General Apoorva Srivastava. A photo exhibition on the Constitution of India was displayed. A social media quiz was also organized between November 24-27 with winners being awarded prizes.

Four documentary films are also being screened by Films Division India. Click to watch:

[Documentary on Our Constitution](#)

[Documentary on The Preamble](#)

[Documentary on Babasaheb Ambedkar](#)

[Documentary on India's struggles for Freedom: We the people of India](#)



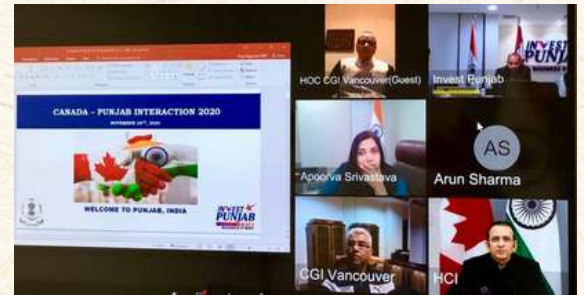


Interaction with University of Winnipeg

High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria along with Consul General Apoorva Srivastava e-interacted with representatives of University of Winnipeg and discussed opportunities for collaboration including visiting professors and celebrating India Day in the University. High Commissioner thanked the university authorities for the support extended to Indian international students during pandemic.

Invest Punjab - Virtual Interaction

On 25th November, 2020, High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria along with Consul General Apoorva Srivastava interacted with Invest Punjab Team and discussed roadmap of engagement between Punjab and Canada for investment and collaboration in sectors like education, agri-tech, food processing, light industry etc.



Interaction with Deputy Minister of Energy

On 25th November, 2020, Consul General held a virtual meeting with Mr. Stephen Rhodes, Deputy Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, Ontario provinces and discussed opportunities for cooperation in the field of mining between India and Ontario.

Know India Workshop

Consulate in association with India International Centre of Canada (IIIC) held the second session of the "Know India Workshop" series with Sathya Sai School. The session began with a detailed presentation on "Discover India" delivered by Consul General of India to group of students followed by speakers who presented their insights on India's Space Programs, Economic snapshots, advancement in information technology, education system and India's rich and diverse tourism landscape. The session concluded with an interactive quiz.

Ontario Trade and Investment Tour to India



High Commissioner Ajay Bisaria along with Consul General Apoorva Srivastava interacted with Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Hon'ble Victor Fedeli and his team for deepening Ontario's economic engagement with India during the upcoming trade & investment mission to India. Ontario will be virtually leading a delegation to the largest tech forum in South Asia to explore economic opportunities.

PM Narendra Modi calls for new Global Index for post-Corona World at G20 Summit

In the 15th edition of the G20 Summit hosted by Saudi Arabia on 22 November 2020, PM Narendra Modi termed the COVID-19 pandemic as an important turning point in history of humanity and the biggest challenge the world was facing since World War II. He called for a new Global Index for the Post-Corona World that comprises four key elements - creation of a vast talent pool; ensuring that technology reaches all segments of the society; transparency in systems of governance; and dealing with Mother Earth with a spirit of trusteeship. View the video of his address [here](#).



India-Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue

On November 17 2020, the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI), Gateway House and Indian Council on Global Relations hosted the third meeting of the India-Canada Track 1.5 Dialogue on Innovation, Growth and Prosperity. The meeting was addressed by François-Philippe Champagne, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, India's Minister of External Affairs on roles of the two countries in a COVID-19 world. Both underlined close cooperation between India and Canada in global affairs and expressed confidence in the further growth of the bilateral relationship.

The Union Cabinet approves introduction of Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme in 10 key sectors

The Union Cabinet has approved a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for 10 key sectors for enhancing India's manufacturing capabilities and exports. These sectors include Telecom and Networking Products, Pharmaceutical and Drug, Automobile and Auto components, Textile products and Food products. Briefing reporters after the cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said the scheme will make Indian manufacturers globally competitive, attract investment and enhance exports. He said that this will also increase production, export and employment opportunities in the country. Read more [here](#).

Simplification of Tax Regime - "Moving to tax transparency" PM Modi

PM Modi remarked that along with the reduction of tax and simplicity in the process, the biggest reforms that have been done are related to the dignity of honest taxpayers to protect them from trouble. He attributed zero tax on income up to Rs 5 lakh in the country as a huge benefit being given to the youth of lower middle class today. He added that the new option of income tax given in the budget this year, has simplified the lives of taxpayers. He added the result of this growing trust is that more and more partners are coming forward to join the tax system for the development of the country. Read the entire text of speech [here](#).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum

Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited the investors to invest in Indian urbanization. Speaking at the 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum via video conferencing, he dwelled on the theme of rejuvenation of the urban centres and emphasized the centrality of the people in the recovery process. Terming people as the biggest resources and the communities as the biggest building block, he emphasized the need to carry forward the learnings of the pandemic period and stressed on the importance of cleaner environment. He informed the forum about the recent initiatives for revitalizing the Indian urban landscape such as Digital India, Startup India, affordable housing, Real Estate (Regulation) Act and Metro Rail in 27 cities. Read text of PM's address [here](#).